

**RIO NUEVO MULTIPURPOSE FACILITIES DISTRICT BOARD MEETING  
APRIL 11, 2000  
TUCSON CONVENTION CENTER - CRYSTAL BALLROOM**

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Ruben Suarez at 5:40 pm.

**Item 1: Roll Call**

In attendance:

Board: Ruben Suarez, Corky Poster, Alice Eckstrom

Staff: John S. Jones, Project Director, John Updike, Project Manager, Kay Gray, Finance Director, Marty McCune, Historic Program Administrator, Elisabeth Sotelo, Principal Assistant City Attorney, Hymie Gonzales, TCC Director, and Bill Hicks, Esq., Counsel to the Board

Absent/Excused: Olivia Hernandez

**Item 2: Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Poster moved and was seconded by Ms. Eckstrom that the minutes of March 8, 2000 be approved. Approved 11-0.

**Item 3: Discussion of March 27<sup>th</sup> Mayor and Council Meeting**

Mr. Jones provided an update on the Mayor and Council Meeting of March 27<sup>th</sup>, regarding the discussion of formation of the Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC) on the Rio Nuevo Project. One appointment has been made to date. Mr. Jones reviewed the overall content of an application form available for use by the Council offices in making their appointments, and the required disclosure of interest form all appointees will complete. There is no finite deadline for the appointments to be made. The Board will receive applications if used by the individual council offices making their respective appointments, and the disclosure forms for each appointee.

Ms. McCune discussed the Origins Task Force Recommendations, also a topic on the March 27<sup>th</sup> Mayor and Council meeting. The Board received a full copy of the Task Force report. Ms. McCune reviewed the Mayor and Council direction received to implement two of the four recommended next steps contained in that report; acquisition of required properties and archaeological investigation.

Chair Suarez asked for clarification as to the meaning of "public involvement" in the project. Ms. McCune responded that wide-spread public input and participation is anticipated in developing the interpretive plan, and that all educational opportunities during the investigation process will be explored to



fullest extent possible. Mr. Poster asked for clarification that the contract for the archaeological work would be between the District and the contractor, and Mr. Jones confirmed that to be the case. The RFP will be developed by staff and provided to the Board for input next month in draft form. Mr. Poster asked that staff be very specific in the future in noting contractual relationships, perhaps using organizational charts. No action was taken by the Board on this item.

#### **Item 4: Discussion on Land Acquisition**

Mr. Updike provided a brief review of the status of the option to acquire the Flint Oil parcel located on the south side of Simpson, along the eastern boundary of the South Yard Drill Track. Mr. Jones detailed those parcels in the vicinity of the Presidio Museum site, Convento, Warner's Mill site and Mission Gardens

#### **Item 5: Update on RFQ for Master Planning**

Mr. Jones provided an update on the RFQ. New submission date will be announced once the CAC formation process nears completion. A charrette process will likely be a part of the master-planning effort, in accordance with a Mayor and Council request of March 27<sup>th</sup>. That will be clearly noted to potential respondents, and another pre-proposal conference will also be scheduled before the new submittal date. Spring of 2001 is the revised target date for completion of the master plan.

#### **Item 6: Letter of Support for NEA New Public Works Grant**

Mr. Jones and Ms. Dian Magie of Tucson/Pima Arts Council provided a background briefing to the Board regarding this draft letter for the Board Chair's signature. This possible \$50,000 grant requires a dollar for dollar match from the City of Tucson, and would involve a design competition in connection with the vision of the gateway to downtown at Congress and Interstate 10. Ms. Gray indicated that the required City match expenditure would be an eligible match toward the City's obligations toward the District as well. Mr. Poster moved, and Ms. Eckstrom seconded that the Chair forward the letter as drafted. Motion approved 11-0.

#### **Item 7: Fiscal Year 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 Budget**

Mr. Jones reviewed the draft preliminary budget submitted for comment to the Board of \$454,130 for FY '99-'00 and \$4,074,530 for FY '00-'01. Chair Suarez requested supporting information to this budget be provided at the next meeting. Mr. Brian Flagg from the audience asked for clarification as to the "Tucson Origins" costs. Mr. Jones provided that clarification. Mr. Hicks outlined the budget submission process. The budget must be forwarded to the Board of Supervisors by July 10, 2000, following adoption by the District Board by no later than June 30<sup>th</sup>, following a public hearing held by the District Board. Mr. Poster suggested that the



architectural and engineering costs associated with the Aquarium project be reduced or eliminated and then rolled into the overall \$10,000,000 budget for the Aquarium, rather than components of the project separately identified at this time. Mr. Jones responded to Mr. Poster's questions regarding which projects had a required 2:1 match goal/requirement from the private sector. Chair Suarez indicated that the budget at this time is somewhat uncertain.

Mr. Fernando Castro, City Manager for the City of South Tucson, asked, on behalf of the South Tucson City Council, as to the status of the review of acceleration of payments to South Tucson. Mr. Jones indicated that the City Attorney's Office and Counsel to the Board were diligently reviewing the issues related to this request, and once all of those issues were fully addressed, South Tucson officials would be approached to further discuss the matter. No precise timeline could be provided at this time. No action was taken by the Board on this item.

#### **Item 8: Call to the Audience**

Ms. Josephina Cardenas of Kroeger Lane Neighborhood reminded the Board that Rancho Chukson supporters desire to explore mutually beneficial design issues associated with the Origins Project, in concert with staff and applicable consultants. Mr. Gary Copis with the N Gauge Model Railroad Club wanted to be involved in the master planning effort as they desire a new location for their facility, due to a pending relocation from Davis-Monthan Air Force Base space.

#### **Item 9: Next Meeting**

Through unanimous consent of the Board, the next meeting shall be Thursday, May 11, 2000, at 5:30 pm at the Tucson Convention Center in a room to be announced.

#### **Item 10: Adjournment**

Ms. Eckstrom moved and Mr. Poster seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Motion approved 11-0, meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm.